

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

ICAE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /083 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 9342

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NYK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1008

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDRESSEES)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MR, AG, NI, PINT

SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT OUL DADDAH VISIT TO LIBYA AND
NIGERIA

REF: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 781(NOTAL), (B) NOUCHOTT 662(NOTAL)

(C) NOUAKCHOTT 281(NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH
DEPARTED NOUAKCHOTT EAR MORNING APRIL 13 OF OFFICIAL VISIT TO
LIBYA AND NIGERIA. FONMIN MOUKNASS ACCOMPANIED. PRESIDENT PLANS
TO REMAIN IN LIBYA UNTIL APRIL 16 AND THEN PROCEED DIRECT TO
NIGERIA WHERE HIS APRIL 16-19 STATE VISIT IS IN RESPONSE TO
CHIEF OF STATE OBASANJO DECEMBER 1977 INVITATION (REFTEL C AND
PREVIOUS). ACCORDING TO GIRM FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES AND NIGERIAN
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EMBASSY, PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH MAY EXTEND LAGOS VISIT TO PARTICIPA-
TE IN PART OF ECOWAS APRIL 21-24 MEETING. REGARDING THE LIBYAN
VISIT, BBC 0800 WORLD NEWS CARRIED ITEM. NEWSCASTER STATED THAT
PURPOSE WAS TO REQUEST QADHAFI TO PLAY MEDIATING ROLE IN WESTERN
SAHARA DISPUTE. END UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: ALTHOUGH MAURITANIANS, IN PRIVATE,

ARE CRITICAL OF LIBYAN SUPPORT OF THE POLISARIO, THEY TEMPER SUCH CRITICISM WITH ADMISSION THAT LIBYANS HAVE NOT RECOGNIZED THE SAHARAN DEMOCRATIC AFRICAN REPUBLIC (SDAR), AND OFFICIAL RELATIONS ARE OSTENSIBLY CORDIAL. THERE ARE FREQUENT CONTACTS BETWEEN SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS; THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR IS THE DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS HERE; AND THE GIRM IS GENEROUS IN ITS PRAISE OF LIBYA'S FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WHICH IS INDEED SUBSTANTIAL (REFTEL B). THROUGH HIS FENCE-STRADDLING POLICIES QADHIFI HAS MANAGED TO MAINTAIN SOME DEGREE OF ACCEPTABILITY TO ALL PARTIES IN THE WESTERN SAHARA DISPUTE. THIS, LINKED WITH ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS TIES, PROBABLY GIVES HIM GOOD CREDENTIALS TO PLAY AN EFFECTIVE MEDIATING ROLE. AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL A, THE MAURITANIAN APPEAR TO BE ACCELERATING AND EXPANDING EFFORTS TO LAUNCH SOME FORM OF NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THE JULY 1978 OAU SUMMIT IN KDRTOUM. END CONFIDENTIAL.

KRYZA

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